



Merlin disease code: 00342 Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

No paper case report form
Merlin extended data required

Background

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Illness ranges from mild to severe with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

Clinical criteria for case classification

One or more of the following in the absence of a more likely diagnosis:

- Cough or dyspnea/shortness of breath;
- **Or** at least two of the following symptoms: fever, myalgia/muscle aches, headache, sore throat, or new olfactory or taste disorder(s);
- **Or** pneumonia;
- **Or** acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS);
- **Or** multisystem inflammatory syndrome in a child <21 years old (MIS-C).

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Positive SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) result.

Presumptive:

Positive antigen result.

Supportive:

Positive antibody result.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person who had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

Probable:

One of the following:

- A person with presumptive laboratory evidence;
- **Or** a clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria;
- **Or** MIS-C in a person with confirmatory, presumptive, or supportive laboratory criteria.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Continued)

Not a case:

One or more of the following in the absence of confirmed and probable criteria:

- A negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result;
- **Or** a SARS-CoV-2 IgM, IgG, or IgA antibody result (positive or negative);
- **Or** no epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.